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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/889,653	07/19/2001	Fuminori Takizawa	P/1909-152	8648

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LAM S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2853

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/889,653

Applicant(s)

TAKIZAWA, FUMINORI

Examiner

LAM S NGUYEN

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

1. Claims 1, 3, 10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being obvious by Horii et al. (US 6283568).

Horii et al. disclose an ink jet recording head driving method, the ink jet recording head having a plurality of nozzles (FIG. 5, element 118) and a plurality of pressure generating chambers (FIG. 5, element 114) and piezoelectric actuators (FIG. 5, element 116) corresponding thereto, said process comprising:

scanning said ink jet recording head in a first direction while simultaneously generating a plurality of drive waveform signals (FIG. 2: while the head is scanning, the drive waveform generator 142 generates a plurality of drive waveform signals 145-1 to 145-N);

selecting for each of said plurality of nozzles any one or none of said plurality of drive waveform signals (FIG. 2: the waveform selector 141-1 to 141-n select none or one of waveforms 145-1 to 145-N); and applying said selected drive waveform signals to respective piezoelectric actuators corresponding to said plurality of nozzles (FIG. 2: elements corresponding to outputs 21- to 21-n).

Art Unit: 2853

Referring to claim 10: an ink jet recording head driving circuit the ink jet recording head having a plurality of nozzles and a plurality of pressure generating chambers and corresponding piezoelectric actuators corresponding thereto, said ink jet recording head driving circuit in comprising:

recording means for recording drive waveform information for drive waveform signals (FIG. 2 and FIG. 3);

waveform generating means for simultaneously generating a plurality of drive waveform signals based on said drive waveform information read from said recording means (FIG. 2, element 142);

control means for moving said ink jet recording head and selecting, for each of said plurality of nozzles, any one or none of the plurality of drive waveform signals (FIG. 2, element 143); and

drive means for applying said drive waveform signal to said piezoelectric actuators by selecting none or one of a plurality of drive waveform signals output from said drive generating means (FIG. 2, element 141-1 to 141-n).

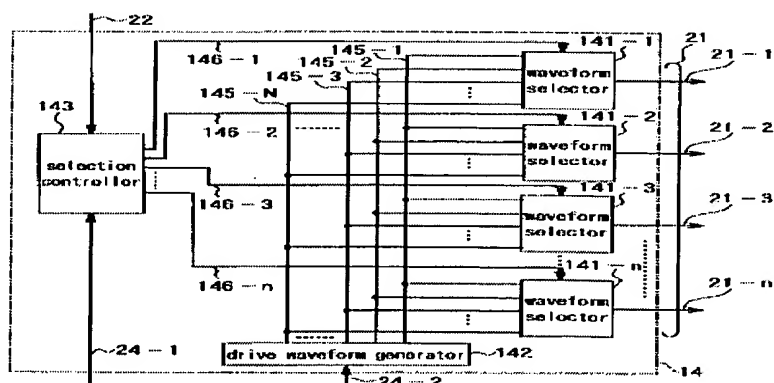


FIG.2

Referring to claims 3 and 12: characterized in that drive waveform signals for discharging ink droplets with a large jet amount of ink and drive waveform signals for discharging ink droplets with a small jet amount of ink are generated simultaneously (FIG. 6A-D: different waveforms for discharging different size of ink droplets).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2, 4-7, 11, 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horii et al. (US 6238568) in view of Shimada et al. (US 6293643).

Horri et al disclose the claimed invention as discussed above and also the control means selects said drive waveform signals on the basis of supplied data (FIG. 8) (**Referring to claims 5 and 17**). However, Horii et al. do not disclose that the dot forming process is executed at least twice on a same place of said recording medium (**Referring to claims 5 and 14**), nozzles that are positioned at a different place or the same place from the nozzles used during a previously executed dot forming process pass the place opposite the same place of said recording medium (**Referring to claims 6, 7, 15, 16**), at least one of said plurality of drive waveform signals is different from a drive waveform signal generated during a previously executed dot forming process (**Referring to claims 2 and 11**), and drive waveform signals for discharging ink droplets with a large jet amount of ink and drive waveform signals for discharging ink droplets with a small jet amount are alternately generated (**Referring to claims 4 and 13**).

Art Unit: 2853

Shimada et al. disclose the dot forming process is executed at least twice on a same place of said recording medium (FIG. 16: the dot (a big square) is executed three times on the same place of the recording medium), nozzles that are positioned at a different place or the same place from the nozzles used during a previously executed dot forming process pass the place opposite the same place of said recording medium (FIG. 16: nozzles used in the second pass for printing sub-dots 2 are positioned at a different place from the nozzles used during the first pass for printing sub-dots 1. Both pass on the same place of the printing medium. FIG. 22: nozzles used in the first and second pass positioned on the same place pass on the same place of the printing medium), at least one of a plurality of drive waveform signals (FIG. 16, the waveform corresponding to the dots 2) is different from a drive waveforms signal (FIG. 16, the waveform corresponding to the dots 1) generated at the previously executed dot forming process, and drive waveform signals for discharging ink droplets with a large jet amount (FIG. 16, ink drops 1) and those with a small jet amount are alternately executed (FIG. 16, ink drops 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the method of printing a dot by at least twice forming processes with different or same nozzles and different drive waveforms for two consequence processes as disclosed by Shimada et al. into the method of printing as disclosed by Horii et al. The motivation of doing so is to provide a technique of effectively utilizing at least two different types of dots having different ink densities and different ink weights for preventing of banding so increase the printing quality of a printing apparatus as taught by Shimada et al. (column 2, line 14-17).

Art Unit: 2853

3. Claims 8, 9, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horii et al. (US 6238568) in view of Shimada et al. (US 6293643) as applied to claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 14, 15, 17, and further in view of Fujimori (US 6338542).

Horri et al. and Fujimori disclose the claimed invention as discussed above except that the combination of drive waveform signals is determined on the basis of a number of times of said dot forming process is performed and the number of times the same or a different nozzles a nozzle passes the place opposite the same place of said recording medium on the basis of a high-speed printing mode for printing a high speed and a high-quality image.

Fujimori discloses the combination of drive waveform signals is determined on the basis of a number of times of said dot forming process is performed and the number of times the same or a different nozzles a nozzle passes the place opposite the same place of said recording medium on the basis of a high-speed printing mode for printing a high speed and a high-quality image (column 17, line 40-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the combination of drive waveform signals determined on the basis of a number of times of said dot forming process is performed and the number of times the same or a different nozzles a nozzle passes the place opposite the same place of said recording medium as disclosed by Fujimori into the method of printing as disclosed by Horri et al. in view of Shimada. The motivation of doing so is to provide a technique that enables flexible setting of a print mode in a printing apparatus to ensure the expression of different densities in respective pixels according to the print mode as taught by Fujimori (column 2, line 15-19).

Response to Arguments

Art Unit: 2853

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Regarding to the arguments on pages 9 and 10 referring to claims 1 and 10: The applicants argued that the Shimada reference fail to disclose the simultaneous generating a plurality of drive waveform signals while scanning the recording head. However, as discussed above, the combination of the Shimada and Horii et al. references disclose the claimed invention. Therefore, these claims are unpatentable.

Regarding to the arguments on pages 9 and 10 referring to claims 2-9 and 11-20: The applicant argued that since claims 2-9 and 11-20 depends on the allowable claims 1 and 10, they are patentable. However, as discussed above, claims 1 and 10 are unpatentable and claims 2-9 and 11-20 are rejected under the combination of the Horri et al., Shimada, and Fujimori references. Therefore, these claims are also unpatentable.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Takizawa (US 6276773) teaches the simultaneous generation of a plurality of drive waveforms.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

Art Unit: 2853

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

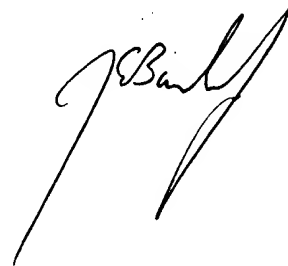
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAM S NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703)305-3342. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BARLOW can be reached on (703)308-3126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-3431 for regular communications and (703)305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

LN

September 25, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Barlow", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the left.